UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/220
1 March 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Letter dated 1 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 February from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning the bombardment by United States aircraft of the operational control system for the Iraq-Turkey oil export pipeline, which has halted oil exports, and requesting you to inform the Security Council of the grave consequences of this act of aggression and to take, with the Security Council, appropriate measures to halt the acts of aggression carried out by the United States of America and the United Kingdom in Iraqi airspace.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 28 February 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to inform you that at 1445 hours today, 28 February 1999, United States aircraft bombed radio relay station six (RS6), a key component of the operational control system for the Iraq-Turkey oil export pipeline. The station is situated 40 kilometres south-west of the city of Mosul, in a region in which there are no other installations for many kilometres. Station installations suffered large-scale damage, one station supervisor was killed and three others injured, and the pumping of crude oil through the Iraq-Turkey export pipeline was halted.

The closure of this station will have direct negative consequences for operations to export crude oil through the Turkish pipeline to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan and, consequently, for planned rates of export through this port.

The position subjected to this latest act of aggression is located inside the illegal and unauthorized no-fly zone imposed north of latitude 36° by the United States of America and the United Kingdom. It was not covered by Iraqi air defences or close to any Iraqi radar system. This proves conclusively that this act of aggression was deliberately intended to halt the export of Iraqi oil. It constitutes an outrageous new departure, since it was carried out regardless of the statements recently made by United Nations officials concerning the need to find additional financial resources to cover the requirements of the oil for food programme agreed under the memorandum of understanding. Furthermore, it exposes the hypocrisy of the claims made by officials of the United States Administration about their concern to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, and confirms their malevolent intention to continue to harm that people.

While the Government of Iraq assigns international responsibility for this act of aggression, and for the corresponding reparations for human and material losses, to the United States of America, it requests you, as a party to the memorandum of understanding, to inform the Security Council of the grave consequences of this act of aggression and to take, with the Security Council, appropriate measures to halt the acts of aggression carried out by the United States of America and the United Kingdom in Iraqi airspace.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq